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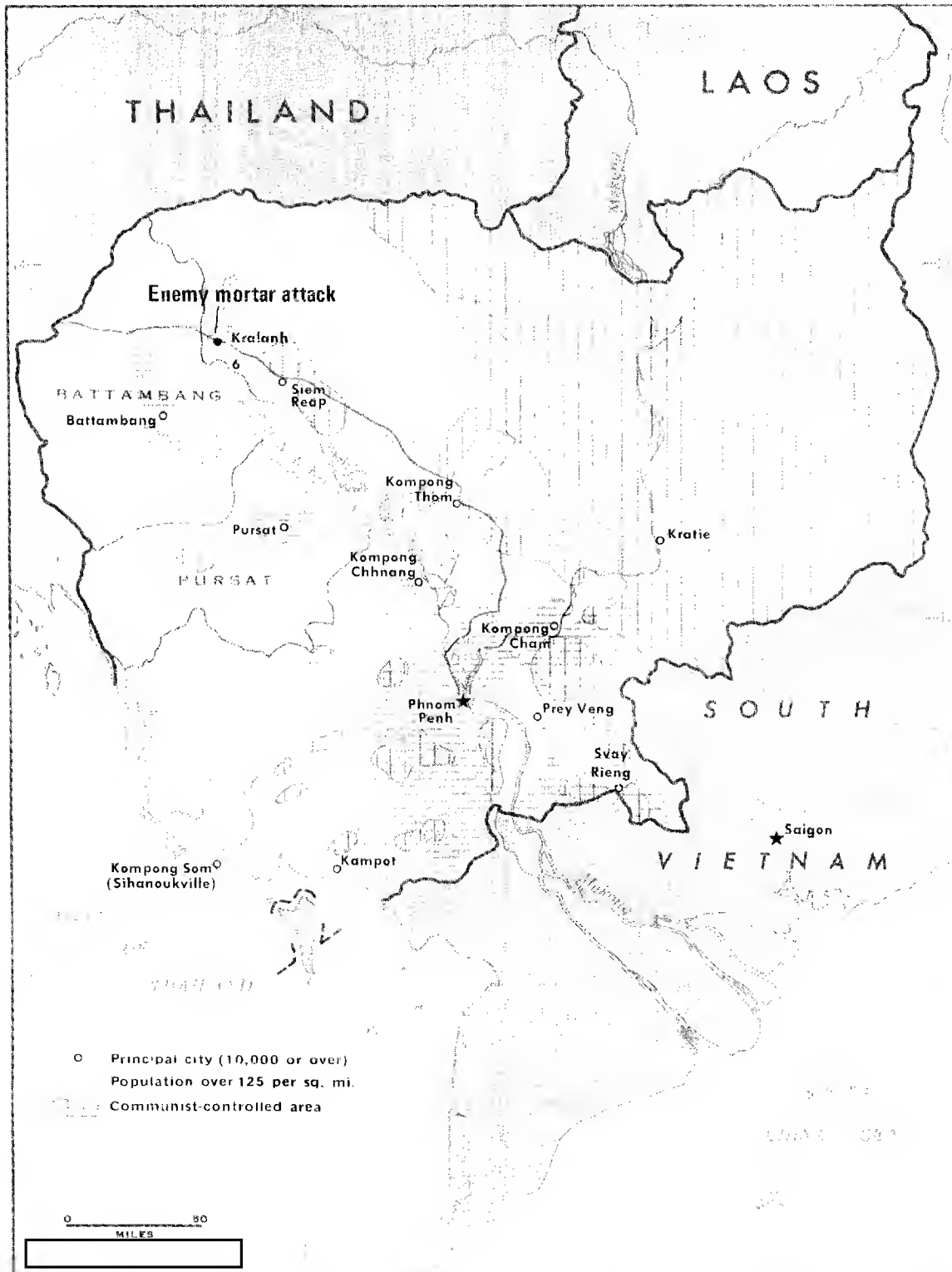


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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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Cambodia: Sihanouk's exile government claims it plans to start operating soon in the "liberated areas" of Cambodia.

According to a communiqué broadcast over radio Hanoi on 24 August, the "government's" central committee has decided to move a number of ministries from Peking into Cambodia on a gradual basis. Sihanouk's "ministers" of national defense, interior, and information are alleged to be already in Cambodia, and their responsibilities, however nominal, may be the first ones to be transferred to the new locale.

In a lengthy broadcast last week, Sihanouk reiterated his intention to return to Cambodia, but he again left the date indefinite. He implied that he would not return until "liberation" forces had overthrown the Lon Nol government.

Protest Note

Phnom Penh has sent a note of protest to Saigon over the activities of South Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. The note, which cites an apocryphal report of future Viet Cong - South Vietnamese Army cooperation against the Cambodians, indicates that the heretofore amicable relations that have been maintained at the governmental level are beginning to break down.

Military Developments

Communist military activity is on the rise in western Cambodia. Government battalions defending Kralanh town were hit by a mortar attack on 23 August. The enemy reportedly used 140-mm. rockets, although the presence of these weapons in Cambodia has not been verified. Route 6 on both sides of Siem Reap city is insecure, and several civilian vehicles have been ambushed less than two miles west of the city in recent days.

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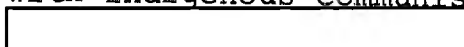
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In Pursat Province, Cambodian troops have captured several Vietnamese Communists in a sweep operation. This lends some credence to earlier indications that the enemy may be attempting to link up with indigenous Communist elements in the west.



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Korea : President Pak's call for peaceful reunification has struck a sensitive nerve in Pyongyang.

The North Koreans' concern over Pak's recent challenge to their continuing propaganda offensive on reunification is clearly apparent in the defensive tone of their response. An editorial appearing in the authoritative Minju Choson on 23 August calls Pak's proposal a "vicious trick" designed to deceive the Korean people. Repeating Pyongyang's two longstanding conditions for unification--withdrawal of all US forces from Korea and the overthrow of the Pak government--the editorial seeks to blame Washington and Seoul for the continued tension in Korea. Pyongyang's flat rejection of any role for the UN in reunification is unlikely to help its cause when the General Assembly again takes up the Korean question in the fall.

The editorial also reflects North Korean sensitivities to growing ties between Seoul and Tokyo. Pyongyang recognizes that Japan's increasing involvement in South Korea's rapidly developing economy is an additional obstacle to Korean reunification on Communist terms. Lashing out at Pak for accepting "foreign monopoly capital," the editorial demands that the Japanese also be expelled from South Korea as a precondition for reunification.

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Australia: Impending reforms in the Labor Party should enhance its electoral chances in 1972 and for the senatorial race this year.

The Federal Executive of the Labor Party is expected to dismiss almost the entire Labor leadership in the state of Victoria this week and to appoint a caretaker party administration in order to reduce drastically Communist influence. Steps toward such a move began early this month and have gained wide support among the party's rank and file in Victoria, as well as among many trade unionists and parliamentarians elsewhere who are fed up with the autocratic, extreme leftist party leadership in that state.

The Labor Party's inability to win a national election in the last 20 years derives in great part from voter reaction to extreme left and Communist influence in the party's branch in Victoria, where over 25 percent of the nation's population is concentrated. Genuine reform in Victoria should both reduce present divisiveness in the party and broaden its electoral base.

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USSR: The cholera outbreak apparently is causing some delays in shipping from Black Sea ports.

Shipping continues to move into and out of the Black Sea, but ships are being kept offshore at Odessa, where they are fumigated and quarantined for long periods. Perhaps to discourage the arrival of foreign ships, a Soviet trade corporation on 13 August informed an Indian customer that the port of Odessa was closed and that the arrival of goods at the port would be delayed at least until the end of August. Military shipments from the Black Sea could also be affected by controls imposed on transportation within the USSR to ports.

Concern over the spread of the disease has led Cuba to quarantine arriving Soviet ships until crews are checked by medical officers. Spain is taking similar steps and other countries may do likewise.



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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 24 August 1970 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 51-70 "Burma's Problems and Their Possible Implications"



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